

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09922 131328Z
ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 NSF-01 /025 W
-----035622 131332Z /43
P 131255Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4675

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PASS DHEW/PHS/NIH INTERAGENCY PRIMATE STEERING COMMITTEE
DR. BLOOD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, TPHY, ETRD, IN
SUBJECT: BAN ON EXPORT OF RHESUS MONKEYS

REF: (A) STATE 141125 (B) NEW DELHI 8947 (C) STATE 162108

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM N.D. JAYAL,
JOINT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA:

QUOTE AS YOU MAY BE AWARE WE HAVE BEEN EXPORTING ANNUALLY
AROUND 20,000 RHESUS MONKEYS TO THE U.S.A. FOR BIO-MEDICAL
RESEARCH PURPOSES. SUCH EXPORT IS BEING REGULATED BY OUR
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, WHO WE LEARN HAVE BEEN OBTAINING AN
UNDERTAKING FROM THE U.S.A. IMPORTERS VIZ., PRIME LABS AND
PRIMATE IMPORTERS, TO THE EFFECT THAT THESE MONKEYS WOULD BE
EXCLUSIVELY UTILIZED FOR BIO-MEDICAL RESEARCH PURPOSES. THE
U.S. IMPORTERS ARE BEING SUPPLIED RESPECTIVELY BY M/S VITA
PRIVATE LIMITED AND M/S PATTERSON LTD., THE INDIAN EXPORTERS.

2. WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING RATHER DISTURBING REPORTS THAT
THESE MONKEYS ARE OFTEN BEING USED FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH. TO CLEAR OUR DOUBTS, I SHOULD BE GRATE-
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FUL IF YOU COULD KINDLY OBTAIN AND SUPPLY US WITH THE FOL-
LOWING INFORMATION:

I) LIST OF CUSTOMERS IN U.S.A. AND ELSEWHERE TO WHOM THE
U.S. IMPORTERS SUPPLY RHESUS MONKEYS

II) NUMBER OF RHESUS MONKEYS SOLD DURING 1976 BY THE

IMPORTERS AND RETAIL PRICES WEIGHT-WISE FETCHED FOR THEM
III) ANY BROAD DETAILS AVAILABLE OF HOW THEY WERE UTILIZED
WOULD BE APPRECIATED

IV) WHETHER ANY BREEDING PROGRAMMES ON RHESUS MONKEYS ARE
BEING UNDERTAKEN IN THE U.S.A. UNQUOTE

COMMENT

4. EFFECTIVE JULY 8 UNTIL FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS THE GOVERN-
MENT OF INDIA HAS SUSPENDED THE EXPORT OF RHESUS MONKEYS TO
ALL THE COUNTRIES. THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED TODAY
JULY 13 BY MR. J. SANYAL, DEPUTY SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF COM-
MERCE (MOC). WHEN ASKED REASONS FOR SUCH AN ACTION AND HOW
LONG IT WILL TAKE TO RESCIND THE BAN, SANYAL INFORMED EMB
OFFICIALS THAT THEY ARE REVIEWING THE SALE PRICE OF THE
MONKEYS CHARGED BY THE INDIAN EXPORTERS ABROAD AND THAT THEY
ARE ANXIOUS TO COMPLETE THE REVIEW AND LIFT THE BAN ASAP.
WE SUSPECT THAT THE QUESTIONS BEING ASKED BY JAYAL ARE A
RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MOL ENTERPRISES AND THE MOC.

5. WE HAVE SENT AN INTERIM REPLY TO JYAL EMPHASIZING THE
IMPORTANCE OF RHESUS MONKEYS FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH BUT
WILL NOT RESPOND TO HIS QUESTIONS UNTIL WE RECEIVE NIH COM-
MENTS.

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6. DHAWAN OF THE PATTERSON PVT. LTD., INFORMED US THAT BOTH
VITA PVT. LTD., AND PATTERSON HAVE MADE A REPRESENTATION TO
THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND THEY EXPECT TO MEET HIM SOON TO
REQUEST THAT THE BAN BE REVOKED.

7. WE HAVE AIRPOUCHED TO DR. BLOOD COPIES OF THE CORRES-
PONDENCE AND THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY MOL ENTERPRISES TO GOI
WHICH PATTERSON HAS PROVIDED CONFIDENTIALLY TO EMBASSY. MOL
HAS OFFERED TO THE GOI A ROYALTY OF \$50 FOR EACH MONKEY SHIPPED
FROM INDIA PROVIDED GOI GIVES THEM A 10 YEAR SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE
RIGHT TO EXPORT MINIMUM 20,000 MONKEYS ANNUALLY. MOL ENTER-
PRISES HAS ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY WILL GIVE THE GOI A
LETTER OF CREDIT FOR ONE MILLION U.S. DOLLARS TO ASSURE THIS
COMMITMENT. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM LOCAL EXPORTERS THAT
SIMILAR PROPOSAL HAS BEEN MADE IN BANGLADESH. THIS COULD
GIVE MOL ENTERPRISES A MONOPOLY ON RHESUS MONKEYS.

8. REQUESTED ACTION: WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMAL CHECK ON
MOL ENTERPRISES INC. P.O. BOX 25348, PORTLAND, OREGON 97228;
TELEPHONE (503) 246-8391; PRESIDENT: ROBERT O'LOUGHLIN,
CAPACITY AND EXPERIENCE TO HANDLE BUSINESS IN NON-HUMAN
PRIMATES. APPEARS MOL HAS NO EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD AND

IS NOT LICENSED BY USG TO IMPORT PRIMATES. MOL ENTERPRISES
IS NOT LISTED IN DUNN AND BRADSTREET.

9. EMBASSY NEEDS REPOSE OF NIH TO JAYAL LETTER ASAP AND
WILL KEEP NIH INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.
GOHEEN

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